

LIFE TIME

Life for everyone

DUBUQUE
COUNTY
RIGHT TO LIFE
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

IF NOT US, THEN WHO?

We (DCRTL) were recently asked whether, with all that's going on in the political and religious realm, it is worth it to continue our mission to protect human life from conception to natural death. That is, can we accomplish it without the help of our churches and our government? Will we be able to make a difference? Will we be able to save any lives? Should we just give up? The question came from a relatively newcomer to the pro-life movement. And it caused me to reflect on the discouragement we often feel.

I do get discouraged. I worry about our rights to free speech and religion. I look at the pastors being charged with hate crimes for speaking out against homosexuality, even when simply quoting from the Bible. I look at the groups trying (often successfully) to remove religious symbols or language from the public eye. I look at the challenges to and vetoes of what minor pro-life legislation we manage to get passed. I look at the partisan politics and wonder what happened to representation of the people. I wonder what will be next. Where is *our* freedom of choice? (It appears the only free choice is abortion on demand.) And in my discouragement, I realize I cannot give up.

Our response, however, was immediate and clear—If not us, then who? We are the ones who are consistent in speaking the truth. We have watched our medical associations, our pharmaceutical industry, our politicians, our mainstream media and even our charitable organizations be sucked in by the Culture of Death. Now we are watching our church leaders waffle. And, yes, it is discouraging. But we will not give up. We will not give in.

Now, more than ever our voice needs to be heard. People need to be taught that moral relativism/secular humanism is wrong. There is a right and a wrong. There is good and bad in this world. And, contrary to popular opinion, it's ok to judge an action as right or wrong. What we are not to judge is the eternal consequence of that action. We do not know whether someone will go to heaven or hell. That we cannot judge. We need to let people know that their actions make a difference. They can't have it both ways. They cannot say they are against abortion and vote for abortion. They cannot say life begins at conception and vote for embryonic stem cell research. They cannot say they are against euthanasia and lobby for withdrawal of food and fluids from the chronically ill. They cannot say they are pro-life and ignore the basic human right to life in favor of convenience or selfishness. Therefore, we cannot be idle. We need to educate others, not just about the life issues but about their responsibilities.

There is no reason to give up. Consider that polls continue to show increases in the percentage of pro-life responses. Consider that ultrasound imagery is saving more & more babies with each advancement of technology. We are changing hearts and saving lives.

Major social changes most often come through grassroots efforts. All is not lost, but it will be if we don't stand up for what we believe in, what we know is right. If we don't get the support of our churches and our government, we'll do it ourselves. If not us, then who?



PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS:

The addresses and phone numbers for your members of Congress are:

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 1-202-224-3121
Capitol Switchboard toll free number: 1-888-723-5246

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 1-202-225-3121

CONTACT THE FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)-:
5600 Fischers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001
1-888-463-6332

E-mail addresses for **Representatives** can be found at <http://clerkweb.house.gov> (and then go to "Write your Representative"). Phone numbers are listed above. Rep. **Jim Nussle**, 303 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2911. Fax: 202-225-9129. E-mail: <http://www.nussle.house.gov>. Dubuque office: 563-557-7740, Waterloo office: 319-235-1109, Mason City office: 515-423-0303, and the Manchester office: 563-927-5141 or 800-927-5212.

E-mail addresses for **Senators** can be found at <http://www.senate.gov>. You can **reach any senator** by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. Senator Charles E. **Grassley** (R), 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. E-mail: chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov/ Phone: 202-224-3744 in Washington; 319-232-6657 in Waterloo; or 319-363-6832 in Cedar Rapids.

Senator Tom **Harkin** (D), 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. E-mail: tom_harkin@harkin.senate.gov/ Phone: 202-224-3254 in Washington; 319-365-4505 in Cedar Rapids; or 563-582-2130 in Dubuque.

To contact your IOWA Congressmen:

Call the State House to reach your Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Secretary of Ag., Auditor, and Attorney General @ 515-281-5211. To reach your State Senators, call 515-281-3371. To reach your State Representatives, call 515-281-3221. The toll free number to the Iowa Capitol Building is 800-375-7097.

To write: The Honorable _____, Office of the Governor or Senate Chamber or House Chamber, State Capitol Building, Des Moines, IA 50319. Begin letters with Dear Governor _____ or Dear Senator _____, or Dear Representative _____.

To FAX: House - 515-281-6108; Senate 515-281-5868

To E-mail: firstname_lastname@legis.state.ia.us Please note: an underscore character must be typed between the first and last name. When e-mailing your legislator, please let them know where you live in their district. There are various e-mail addresses for legislators.

- Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) is sponsoring the **Post-Abortion Depression Research and Care Act**, HR 4543, which will allocate \$15 million to the National Institutes of Health in the next five years, and provides for \$1.5 million in grants for private organizations that diagnose and treat post-abortion depression. Post-abortion depression is not recognized by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), but the bill would allow for research in the area. The bill is currently in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It is co-sponsored by 28 other Representatives. (LifeNews.com)
- Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) introduced the **Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act** (HR 4420). The bill has 56 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently under consideration in the House Subcommittee on Health. Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) had previously introduced a companion bill (S-2466) in the Senate. The bill has 23 co-sponsors and is currently under consideration by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The new law would require those who perform abortions on unborn babies 20 weeks or more after fertilization to inform the woman seeking the abortion of the medical evidence for fetal pain. The act would require the abortion provider to advise the woman verbally and to provide a brochure produced by the Department of Health and Human Services detailing the medical evidence of pain experienced by unborn babies. Further, abortionists would be required to give the woman the option of providing anesthesia to the unborn child to reduce or eliminate the pain prior to death. Please take a moment to write or call your senator or representative about the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act.

- Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.) is offering an amendment that could permit all abortions in military hospitals. Under current law, abortions cannot be performed in military hospitals except in the cases of rape, incest and life of the mother.
- Senators John Kerry (D-Mass.), Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Lincoln Chafee (R-R.I.) and seven other senators are sponsoring the "**Putting Prevention First Act**" (S.2336). The companion House bill (H.R.4192) has 112 sponsors. This bill would increase the yearly appropriation for the Title X population control program of the Public Health Services Act to \$643 million for fiscal year 2005. From 2005 through 2009, it would pump \$50 million into promoting 'emergency contraception.' During that same period, it would also appropriate \$500 million for Planned Parenthood-style comprehensive sex education. Ed Szymkowiak, national director of American Life League's STOPP International project, describes the bill as "a prescription for promiscuity, sexually transmitted disease and abortion."

Robert Rector, a Senior Research Fellow at the Heritage Foundation and leader in the abstinence movement, presented a Heritage study comparing the curricula of abstinence programs with that of comprehensive sex education programs. Abstinence programs devote 71% of their content to abstinence-related material, healthy relationships and the benefits of marriage. Comprehensive sex-ed programs, on the other hand, devote only 4.7% of their page content to abstinence material, choosing instead to push condoms and abortion. To adequately address America's STD and teen pregnancy problem, we must put more resources behind programs that teach our youth to remain abstinent - a message that works.

Insurance & the Legislature

The April issue of LIFE TIME contained an article about the California Supreme Court's decision mandating that California Catholic Charities pay for prescription contraceptives if they provide prescription drug coverage. We mentioned that the state's bishops were considering what action to take. In June, Catholic Charities in California announced it will take its challenge of the law to the Supreme Court.

Now, the New Jersey Legislature is attempting to pass a similar law. The law requires insurers that provide outpatient prescription drug benefits and State Health Benefits Program to cover costs of prescription female contraceptives. The bill includes an amendment by the ACLU which would force Catholic hospitals to provide insurance covering contraceptives because their patients and staff include non-Catholics. The amendment restricts them from using a conscience clause to 'opt out' of providing the drugs because of moral objection.

The executive Director of the New Jersey Catholic Conference, William F. Bolan Jr., said "The bill represents an unprecedented assault on the religious freedom rights of churches in general and the Catholic Church in particular. If this kind of amendment becomes law, it is difficult to imagine any restraint upon the state's ability to require religious institutions to violate the principal tenets of their faith." [*LifeNews.com June 26, 2004*]

Once again, our freedom of speech and freedom of religion are being challenged. If you haven't done so yet, contact your lawmakers about legislation to protect our rights.

The Right To Die

In June, *The Oregonian* reported that two right-to-die organizations are hoping to merge, probably by early next year. Compassion in Dying Federation is negotiating to join End-of-Life Choices -- formerly known as the Hemlock Society. The working name for the merging right-to-die group is Compassion and Choices. The Hemlock Society renamed itself End-of-Life Choices in an effort to downplay a name some found troubling. Hemlock is a poisonous herb. Officials of the two groups said a merger would help both. They said Compassion in Dying would get the national clout of End-of-Life Choices' 30,000 members and legislative efforts around the country. The Denver group would get the benefit of Compassion's experience with patients using the Oregon law and its national reputation for promoting doctor-assisted suicide as an option along with an array of mainstream approaches to good palliative care. Claire Simons, a spokeswoman for the Compassion in Dying Federation, said the merger would strengthen the right-to die movement nationally and help bring Oregon's experience to the attention of other states. "We're tired of being the sprouts-chewing liberals out in Oregon," she said. "We need another state" (to legalize doctor-assisted suicide). David Brand, executive director of End-of-Life Choices, said "Nirvana, for us, would be to replicate the Oregon law in other states. The name End-of-Life Choices reflects not a changed ideology but a changed strategy from that of the Hemlock Society. The group has become more politically active and intent on lobbying state legislatures to consider proposals for legalizing doctor-assisted suicide."

Memorials to DCRTL:

Thanks to all who have given a gift of life:

In memory of the following: for **Eileen Steffen** from Bill & Doris McDermott; for **Doris Kemp** from Marian & Virgil Bourek, John & Ellen Markham, Dick & Jean Mescher, Bob & Mary Ellen Scherrman; for **Cecelia Hart, Tim Burkle** from Dick & Jean Mescher; for **Helen Noonan** from Bob & Mary Ellen Scherrman; for **Vincent Donovan** from Ron & Pat Donovan.

In honor of: **Lawrence Kersten's** birthday from Helen Kersten; **Fr. Dennis Cain's** 25th anniversary, **Fr. David Bourek's** 25th Anniversary, & **Fr. L. Paul Ouderkirk's** 45th Anniversary from Virgil & Marian Bourek.

Whenever a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AT THE ABORTION MILLS:

Meet Bill (563-582-4436) after 7:00 A.M. Mass in the Resurrection Church parking lot on Tuesday, **August 17th** or meet @ 7:00 A.M. in St. Columbkille's parking lot that faces the church on Saturday, **August 21st.** For more information, call our office @ 563-556-5960.

PLEASE CALL TO LET US KNOW YOU WILL BE JOINING THE GROUP.

PRAYERFUL PICKETING PROJECT

We're on a mission to close down (with prayer) free standing abortion mills! In conjunction with the Priests for Life project, we have begun background work to "Adopt An Abortion Mill" and provide pray-ers with the purpose of shutting the facility down through our peaceful prayerful presence. Fr. Pavone, of Priests for Life, has linked each free standing mill to parishes in the U.S. and has asked for help. DCRTL has accepted the challenge and hopes to provide full time prayer coverage starting in October, Respect Life month. This is not a "Catholic" project—people of all faiths are welcome and encouraged to join us. Priests for Life has branched out and added an organization called "Gospel of Life Ministries". This ministry presents the work of Fr. Pavone in an ecumenical format. Dr. Paul Schenck brings his knowledge and experience of the Protestant world to his role as Executive Director of Gospel of Life Ministries. Visit www.gospeloflife.com for more information. Any prayer groups, bible study groups, respect life groups, other church groups, youth groups, mothers' clubs, Knights, etc. who might be willing to help are asked to contact our office (563-556-5960) for more information.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SCHEDULE OUR VIDEO/CABLE ACCESS PROGRAMS

If you enjoy video technology and have some spare time, please call us @ 563-556-5960!

We will train you, so don't shy away just because you've never done it before!



Our cable access shows can be seen on cablevision Channel 16! Watch for our **upcoming programs**, scheduled for Monday @ 10:00 A.M., Friday @ 3:00 P.M. and Saturday @ 1:00 P.M.

LIFE DINNER 2004

If you are attended our L.I.F.E. Dinner in April but did not get a full meal, please accept our apologies. We have decided to offer refunds for the price of the meal. If you wish to be reimbursed, please contact Colleen @ 563-556-5960.

Boycott update: Since November 2003, seven corporations have agreed to stop funding Planned Parenthood, bringing the total number to 105. Eleven corporations have been added to the new **BOYCOTT LIST: Adobe Systems, The Hearst Corporation, Hilton Hotels Corporation, Kenneth Cole Productions Inc., Office Depot Inc., The Old Spaghetti Factory, Pfizer Inc., Red Robin, Smith & Hawken Ltd., Symantec, and Unilever.** Life Decisions International's President Douglas R. Scott, who oversees Corporate Funding Project cautions us not to be concerned with the numbers of companies added to the LIST, "This is merely the result of our ongoing investigations of corporate philanthropic activities." The 'Local/Regional Boycott Target' section has added the following Iowa corporations: **Raccoon Valley State Bank, Storey Kenworthy Company, Storm Lake Chiropractic Clinic, & Stroh** (electrical & mechanical union contractor). Please contact the President/CEO of these companies to let them know you will no longer purchase their products/do business with them because they support of Planned Parenthood.

We have received the June LIST. It is available for \$3 @ our office.

For more information about the Corporate Funding Project, including an outline of the standards employed when placing a corporation on or removing a corporation from THE BOYCOTT LIST, visit LDI's website at: www.fightpp.org.

Looking for a baby gift? Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. has blue and pink baby blankets for sale for just \$20. It's a great gift not only because its soft and warm but it also is a great conversation starter with the life rose and "Every Life is a Gift from God" embroidered on it.

SUMMER PICNIC TIME

Our **next meeting**, will be our annual summer picnic to be held starting at 6 P.M. on August 5th at Eagle Point Park in the Eagle's view pavilion. The Eagle's View is located in the center green area of the park after the split in the road, near the new restroom.

IF YOU CUT OUT THE PARK ENTRANCE PASS AND BRING IT WITH YOU, you will not be charged admission to the Park that night thanks to a generous member of our Board of Directors who offered to "pick up the tab." Bring your own beverages, place setting and a dish to pass. Hot dogs will be provided. If you wish to grill something else, bring your own! And don't forget to bring the whole family and several friends!!



**DON'T FORGET
YOUR PASS**



Information regarding DCRTL'S 4TH ANNUAL LEAF RIDE FOR LIFE and a pledge sheet are found on the previous pages. Please consider riding or sponsoring someone who will. We've had great fun in the past and this year's event promises the same! In addition, we would appreciate it if you would share this information with any bicycle enthusiasts and/or pro-life friends. We do not charge a fee for any of the services we provide. All proceeds will be used to educate others on the importance and dignity of life. See you on September 26th!



- COMING EVENTS - Plan now to join us!**
- ◆ **Pro-Life Mass every Wednesday** at 2:25 P.M. at the Power of Prayer - 75 W. 17th Street - Fr. Hussmann, celebrant.
 - ◆ Two opportunities to **Visit** the abortion mills to **pray and sidewalk counsel** each month. Call 563-556-5960 for details. (more information inside this issue)
 - ◆ MODERN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING - 4 **classes**, 1/month - call 582-1673 for details.
 - ◆ Our next **monthly meeting is our annual picnic which** will be held @ **6:00 P.M. on August 5, 2004** at Eagle Point Park [See inside this newsletter for details.] **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME & PLACE!**
 - ◆ Sunday, **September 26th**—4th Annual Leaf Ride for Life [Details inside this newsletter.]
 - ◆ Life Chain, **October 3rd**; Couples Night Out, **October 12th**—watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.
 - ◆ Bus trip to the March for Life —**January 22-26, 2005**-watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.
 - ◆ LIFE Dinner 2005—**April 8, 2005**

- DUBUQUE COUNTY
RIGHT TO LIFE'S WISH
LIST:**
- ⇒ 1 ream of legal size paper
 - ⇒ 1 box of file folders (third cut letter)
 - ⇒ one month's rent (\$450)
 - ⇒ Stamps
 - ⇒ volunteers (for odd jobs)
 - ⇒ prayers for the intentions of DCRTL
 - ⇒ Speaking engagements
 - ⇒ Kleenex
 - ⇒ Dish soap
 - ⇒ Blank VHS tapes
 - ⇒ Blank audio tapes
 - ⇒ Blank CDR-W
 - ⇒ Expandable Hanging File Folders (legal size)

**END VIOLENCE IN THE WOMB
STOP ABORTION**

<p>DII</p> <hr/> <p>DYERSVILLE IMPLEMENT, INC. 13845 ROUTE 136 DYERSVILLE, IOWA 52040 (319)875-2724 or 800-530-2724 A.G.&C.P. PRODUCTS</p>	<p>JD</p> <hr/> <p>St. Joseph's Woodshop <i>Hand Crafted Furniture and Woodwork Built to suit our Customers Needs</i></p> <p>Mike and Sara Brehm & Family 8605 Tennis Lane • Peosta, Iowa 52068 563-557-7041</p>	<p>(563)582-1676</p> <p>Expressions of Faith Religious Gifts & Books</p> <p>2255 JFK, Astory Square Dubuque, Iowa 52002</p> <p>Hours: 11:00-5:00 Mon thru Sat. (Closed Sun.)</p>	<p>Would you like to see your ad here?</p> <p>Call DCRTL 556-5960.</p>
<p>Knippel's Religious Goods [Gifts and Supplies for the Sacraments] 129 Main Street Dubuque, IA 52001 563-582-5845</p>			

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dubuque County Right To Life
1205 Cleveland
Dubuque, Iowa 52003

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